



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Approve Specifications and Advertisement for Bids for Annual Tree Trimming Contract (Power Line Clearing) for Electric Utility Department (\$180,000)

MEETING DATE: January 17, 2001

PREPARED BY: Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the specifications for a tree trimming contract for power line clearing and authorize advertisement for bids.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Electric Utility Department has utilized a tree trimming contractor for its line clearing requirements since November 1988. The current contract was awarded by the City Council on September 17, 1997 for a one-year period with provisions for a year-to-year extension up to a maximum of three additional years. The extension option has been declined by the current tree trimming contractor and they have removed their crews from City of Lodi property.

Due to the excellent results the Department has experienced with this contract service in both significant reduction of outage time to our customers and the cost effectiveness of the program, it is recommended that the program be continued. The bid process is being initialized at this time so that a new contract can be implemented for the remainder of the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 fiscal year, thus maintaining the very necessary continuity of the tree trimming program.

The Department contracts for Tree Trimming (line clearance) utilizing two (2) three person crews and a two person crew year round. Due to changes in rules and regulations, the line clearance effort must be maintained. On January 23, 1997, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved a Proposed Tree Trimming Rules submitted by Administrative Law Judge Malcolm. This new decision now requires a minimum of 18 inches clearance instead of the 6-inch clearance required between foliage and 12 kV utility lines. To conform to the rules, it is imperative that a new contract be awarded.

The specifications have been prepared for a one-year five-month basis with the option to extend yearly thereafter, at the City's sole discretion, for a maximum of three years. It is expected that this contract will provide the City with two (2) three-person crews for seventeen months and a two-person crew for seventeen months, including vehicles, equipment and other expenses for three crews. This level of activity represents the current effort to maintain the 130+ circuit miles of overhead transmission and distribution lines clear of growth on a three-year cycle.

The bid opening date has been set for February 7, 2001.

APPROVED: _____
H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager



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FUNDING:

The estimated cost of this contract is \$180,000 for the remainder of 2000-2001 fiscal year budget and is included in this fiscal year operating budget. The funding for the 2001-2002 fiscal year will be included in the Department's proposed 2001-2003 budget. Funding for extensions of the contract will be budgeted on a year-to-year basis.

Funding Approval:

Vicky McAthie
Vicky McAthie, Finance Director

Alan N. Vallow
Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

PREPARED BY: Carl Lindstrom, Electric Utility Superintendent

ANV/CL/lst

C: City Attorney
Finance Director
Purchasing Officer
George Bradley, Street Superintendent

APPROVED: _____

H. Dixon Flynn
H. Dixon Flynn, City Manager